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Message Text

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70
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /092 W
---------- 097348
R 141450Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2621
INFO AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY OTTOWA
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: TRAN, ZA, MO
SUBJECT: GRZ-MOZAMBIQUE ANNOUNCE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD LINK

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRESS ANNOUNCED JAN 14 THAT GRZ AND MOZAMBIQUE HAVE AGREED TO CONSTRUCT 185 KILOMETRE (PRESUMABLY ALL-WEATHER) ROH BETWEEN KATETE IN ZAMBIA AND BENE IN MOZ-AMBIQUE AT COST OF $9.1 MILLION. EACH COUNTRY TO BEAR COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION WITHIN ITS BORDERS. JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY GRZ MINISTER OF POWER, TRANSPORT AND WORKS JAMES MAPOMA AND MOZAMBICAN COUNTERPART JULIO CARRILHO NOTES THAT CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN MOZAMBIQUE IN OCTOBER 1975 AND ROAD SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION END OF 1976. CARRILHO ADDED THAT AGREEMENT "SHOWS A FIRM WISH BY BOTH COUNTRIES TO ENGAGE IN A COMMON
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RESOLUTION TO COMMON PROBLEMS FACING THEM" END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. AGREEMENT COMES DURING PERIOD OF WIDESPREAD DISCOURAGEMENT ON TRANSPORT SITUATION AND DAILY REPORTS OF NEW SHORTAGES AND INDUSTRIAL LAYOFFS RESULTING FROM COMBINATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAGACITY AND TRANSPORT BOTTLENECKS. GRZ ESPECIALLY DISILLUSIONED WITH PERFORMANCE AT PORT OF DAR ES SALAAM, WHICH NOW HANDLES 80 PERCENT OF ZAMBIA'S COPPER EXPORTS. DESPITE ADDITION TO TRANSPORT CAPACITY WITH STILL LIMITED OPERATION OF TAZARA RAILWAY (PRESENTLY HAULING ABOUT 20,000 TONS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS MONTHLY), COPPER EXPORTS REMAIN ABOUT ONE-THIRD BELOW TARGETTED LEVELS. ALSO COMBINED ROAD/RAIL ROUTE TO BEIRA AND NACALA THROUGH MALAWI PROVING UNSATISFACTORY WITH FREQUENT COMPLAINTS OF PILFERAGE AND DAMAGE IN TRANSIT.

3. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RANKING AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE IF ANY OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE SOUGHT OR OBTAINED TO FINANCE KATETE-BENE ROAD. SOME SUGGESTION IN PRESS THAT CANADA WILL ASSIST IN SURVEY AND DESIGN. SPECULATION CONTINUES RE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA INCLUDING AID IN RAIL AND TRANSPORT SECTORS. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD ON THIS POINT.
WILKOWSKI

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TAGS: ELTN, ZA, MO
To: STATE
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